**WMD**

The members in the center’s WMD Branch are detailed in from the Haz-Mat Operations Division. Two of their primary missions are to provide coordination in strategy and tactics and share newly released federal Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) research between Haz-Mat Operations and the Center’s activities in the Intel, Exercise, and Emergency Response Branches.

New federal CBRNE research covers many areas including consequence modeling, equipment research, requirements and testing, standards development, training, science and technology gaps, short and long term health effects and medical areas including vaccines, treatments and protocols.

Members of the WMD Branch have participated on several national committees focused on Radiological Dispersion Devices (RDDs) and Improvised Nuclear Devices (INDs) to improve our citywide and FDNY Radiological Response Plan. These include: two National Council of Radiation Protection and Measurements Reports, ASTM (E2601) Radiological Response Standard for RDDs, Four ANSI equipment and one ANSI training standard for radiation alarming instruments, survey meters, isotope-identifinders and mobile detection portals used at special events screening. We have participated in National Institute for Scientific Testing (NIST) testing to validate that commercial equipment actually performs the desired mission for our responders in radiation emergencies. Early test results highlighted for observers that many commercial instruments did not meet minimum detection standards and provided the responder community with the data to push for improved equipment now deployed in FDNY units.

Our members have worked with NIOSH to develop standards for CBRNE rated SCBAs and the Department of Defenses’ Technical Support Working Group (TSWG) to test standard turnout ensembles against the permeation effects of chemical warfare agents in addition to common industrial chemicals. Efforts of emergency responders that are members of the Inter Agency Board, including several FDNY members from Haz-Mat Operations, CTDP and the Medical Command, and the USMC Chemical, BioIogical, Incident Response Force (CBIRF) successfully pushed for high level chemical protective ensembles that provide better operational maneuverability than traditional “Level A” suits, such as the Lion MT94 ensembles now deployed by the FDNY in Haz-Mat Tiered Response Companies.

WMD Branch staff members have worked with national scientists to develop minimum performance standards for biological detection instruments in both laboratory settings and field environments. These efforts support quality performance in DHS Bio Watch environmental monitors deployed in NYC and other major metropolitan cities as well as the Bio Detection Systems (BDS) working in several NYC U.S. Postal Service sorting facilities. Efforts are continuing to attract commercial equipment vendors to submit their field detection instruments for validation testing. Without this testing response agencies including the FDNY cannot be guaranteed of reliable field bio detection capabilities.

Information gleaned from work on national committees by our members is shared with our local NYC agency counterparts working on citywide preparedness initiatives. Development of a citywide Radiological Response and Recovery Plan is nearing completion and will guide our revised FDNY RAD Plan. Participation in the DHS Secure the City Rad/Nuc program by CTDP, Haz-Mat Operations and the Marine Division personnel improve our coordination with the law enforcement communities in NYC, NJ, CT , Long Island and the counties north of the city to prevent terrorists from delivering radiological materials into NYC. Our staff is currently working with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to collect and share radiological data during radiation emergencies in a mapping presentation allowing field commanders and staff in both agencies headquarters to visualize where dangerous radiation and contamination is and assign personnel in a way that protects them.

National discussions on vaccines and antidotes provide information to FDNY Medical leaders who shape our policies on protection and treatment. It informs our local NYC leaders on the need for local, state and national stockpiles of certain pharmaceuticals that may be needed quickly against chemical or biological agents.

CTDP staff has coordinated with the Federal Department of Homeland Security, FBI and Department of Energy to receive various clearance levels for fifty chief officers and marshals working in assignments that requires them for access to critical, sensitive information in a timeframe that will support a key responsibility of protecting our personnel and the citizens of NYC. CTDP work in the intelligence area includes FDNY partnering with DHS Intel & Analysis Office in 2007 to establish a national Fire Service Intelligence Enterprise (FSIE), followed by establishing a DHS certified secure room in which our staff can discuss matters of national security with state and federal officials, to now pushing for implementation of a secure data sharing network with a formalized structure in which disciplines not traditionally included in classified discussions will have access to the information they need, when they need it.